WAR LIBRARIES

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE WAR SERVICE COMMITTEE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

VOL. I

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NUMBER 3

UNDER WAY

United War Work Campaign Machinery is Beginning to Operate

—How Library Workers Can Find Their Proper Places
in the Nation-wide Organization

THE I hited War Work Campaign is under way.

The wheels are beginning to turn.

The machinery of the nation-wide organization in which "all sorts and conditions of men" are uniting on a scale and in a spirit never before approached, is rapidly being set up. Parts of it are already functioning.

Now is the time for librarians and library workers to "gear in."

From all over the country comes the inquiry "What can I do?"

It is not within the scope and province of National Headquarters to instruct any particular individual as to what his or her precise place in the United War Work campaign is or may be. The allotment of duties and the appointment of committee members and working teams are in the hands of the State and local United War Work Campaign committees.

Some of these committees have already been formed, others are being formed. The point of contact for the library personnel is with the State Chairmen and Directors who represent American Library Association interests in the United War Work State committees. The complete list of the names and addresses of the A. L. A. State representatives is appended hereto,

Remember always that there is not going to be an American Library Association campaign—it is a United War Work campaign.

The State representatives of the A. L. A. are working in concert and combination with the State representatives of the other six organizations. In your own community your local committee in charge of the campaign will be composed of representatives of all seven organizations. The state director, county chairman and the head of your local committee may be affiliated with the Y. M. C. A., with the Salvation Army, with the Jewish Welfare Board, with the

National Catholic War Council, with the War Camp Community Service or with the Young Women's Christian Association, or perhaps with the American Library Association. These are matters that are to be decided in each State, county and locality by the State, county and local committees and directors.

Every State committee will have complete authority, as it has complete responsibility, for United War Work Campaign and its re-

sults within its particular State. Every local committee will have complete authority and complete responsibility for its locality.

In this campaign, therefore, the library personnel of the United States is not to function as an organization, but as part of the greater group. Every one will be called upon to perform such particular service as he or she may seem to be best qualified to undertake.

All the individual who is eager to help in this campaign can do at present, therefore, is to establish communication, directly or through the State representatives of the A. L. A., with his or her State, county or local United War Work Campaign committee. You can volunteer for service now or you can wait to be drafted later. If you have special qualifications, or special experience, that can be utilized in the common cause make

special experience, that can be utilized in the common cause, make it known. If you have a talent for publicity, ask to be assigned to your State, county or local publicity committee. If your genius lies in organization it will not take long for the others to find that out, once you begin attending the organization meetings. If you have ideas for novel and effective ways of raising money in your particular locality, tell your local committee about them.

There is something for every one of us to do. Unless every one of us does something, United War Work Campaign cannot succeed.

Keep this thought always in mind, that we cannot get the \$3,500,000

Library workers in the United War Work Campaign will be called upon many times to explain what Library War Ser-

vice is and how it operates.

This issue of WAR LIBRARIES contains much information that will enable those having it to answer questions intelligently.

Every word of this issue and of all issues of WAR LIBRARIES should be read carefully by everyone who wants to help Library War Service.

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that is essential to the maintenance and necessary extension of Library War Service unless we help the Y. M. C. A. to get \$100,000,000, the National Catholic War Council to get \$30,000,000, the Young Women's Christian Association and the War Camp Community Service to get \$15,000,000 each, the Jewish Welfare Board and the Salvation Army to get \$3,500,000 each. In exactly the percentage that the total falls short of the goal of \$170,500,000, will the fund available for Library War Service fall short, unless everybody joins in and does his or her utmost to go "over the top."

Here are the names and addresses of the men and women who have been chosen to represent the American Library Association in the United War Work Campaign organizations of the several States. They cannot perform the share—and it is a very important share—that is expected of the American Library Association, unless everyone who is in any degree affiliated with or interested in libraries and Library Service comes forward and gives his best efforts.

ALABAMA

DIRECTOR CHAIRMAN WAR COUNCIL
Thomas M. Owen, Division Archives and History, Montgomery.

CHAIRMAN WAR COUNCIL
J. W. Donnelly, Birmingham.

ARIZONA

Con J. Cronin, State Library, (Not yet appointed.)
Phoenix.

ARKANSA

Mrs. Carl Voss, Little Rock. Will Akers, 921 Southern Trust Bldg., Little Rock.

CALIFORNIA

Northern

Milton J. Ferguson, State Library, Sacramento. (Not yet appointed.)

CALIFORNIA

Southern

Everett R. Perry, Public Library, Los Angeles.

Byron H. Wilson, Public Library, Los Angeles.

COLORADO

Chalmers Hadley, Public Li- James P. Pershing, Denver. brary, Denver.

CONNECTICUT

Chas. D. Hine, Library Commission. Library Commission to act as sion, Hartford. War Council.

DELAWARE

Arthur L. Bailey, Wilmington Philip Burnet, President Continental Ins. Co., Wilmington.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Dr. Geo. F. Bowerman, Public (Not yet appointed.)
Library, Washington.

FLORIDA

Lloyd W. Josselyn, Free Public Perry Wall, Tampa. Library, Jacksonville.

GEORGIA

Robert L. Foreman, Atlanta. Col. Frederick J. Paxon, Atlanta.

IDAHO

Reilly Atkinson, 409 South 8th Charles F. Kutnewsky, Boise. St., Boise.

ILLINOIS

P. L. Windsor, University of Frederick H. Ranson, Union Illinois, Library, Urbana. Trust Co., Chicago.

INDIANA

W. M. Hepburn, Purdue University, Library, Lafayette.

Mrs. Elizabeth Claypool Earl, Connersville.

IOWA

DIRECTOR CHAIRMAN WAR COUNCIL
Johnson Brigham, State Library, Henry L. Adams, Des Moines.
Des Moines.

KANSAS

Charles S. Colladay, Hutchinson. J. C. Bigger, Hutchinson.

KENTUCKY

George T. Settle, Public Library, Col. Marion E. Taylor, 123 West Louisville.

Col. Marion E. Taylor, 123 West Main St., Louisville.

LOUISIANA

Thomas P. Thompson, Hibernia Col. Wm. C. Dufour, Federal Building, New Orleans.

MAINE

Henry C. Dunnack, State Li- J. H. Winchester, Corinna. brary, Augusta.

MARYLAND

L. H. Dielmann, Peabody Institute, Baltimore.

Miss Edith Vermille, Maryland

Miss Edith Vermijle, Maryland Library Com., Baltimore.

MASSACHUSETTS

John A. Lowe, Camp Devens, Library Commission will act, 517 Ayer. State House, Boston.

MICHIGAN

Adam Strohm, Public Library, W. R. Roach, Hart. Detroit.

MINNESOTA

Miss Clara F. Baldwin, Library Leon Warner, 13 South 6th St., Commission, St. Paul. Minneapolis.

MISSISSIPPI

Runbar Rowland, Jackson.

(Not yet appointed.)

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MISSOURI

Miss Elizabeth B. Wales; Library Commission, Jefferson City.

W. T. Grant, Vice-Chairman, 500 Gumbel Bldg., Kansas City.

MONTANA

T. H. Richardson, Helena.

H. G. Pickett, Helena.

NEBRASKA

Miss Anna Jennings, Library Miss Charlotte Templeton, Licommission, Lincoln.

NEVADA

Frank J. Pyne, Carson City. M. D. Fairchild, Reno.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Arthur H. Chase, State Library, Edward K. Woodworth, Concord. Concord.

NEW JERSEY

Miss Sarah B. Askew, Public Library Commission, Trenton, M. Taylor Pyne, Princeton.

NEW MEXICO

Miss Evelyn Shuler, Raton Public Library, Raton. Ralph E. Twitchell, Santa Fe.

NEW YORK

James I. Wyer, Jr., State Library, Albany. (Not yet appointed.)

NORTH CAROLINA

Mrs. A. F. Griggs, Public Li- R. L. Baldwin, Durham. brary, Durham.

NORTH DAKOTA

Mrs. M. C. Budlong, Library Hon. C. B. Little, 1st National Bank, Bismarck.

OHIO

Prof. Azariah S. Root, Oberlin Wm. O. Thompson, Ohio State University, Columbus.

OKLAHOMA

DIRECTOR

CHAIRMAN WAR COUNCIL

Mrs. Mary Hays Marable, Carnegie Library, Oklahoma City. (Not yet appointed.)

OREGON

Mr. W. L. Brewster, Title & Trust Bldg., Portland.

(Not yet appointed.)

PENNSYLVANIA

O. R. Howard Thomson, The James V. Brown Library, Williamsport.

(Not yet appointed.) .

RHODE ISLAND

H. O. Brigham, State Library, Providence.

Dr. Henry B. Gardner, Brown University, Providence.

SOUTH CAROLINA

versity Library, Columbia.

Robert M. Kennedy, S. C. Uni- Henry W. Fair, 1625 Green St., Columbia.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Miss Julia Stockett, Library Abner E. Hitchcock, Mitchell. Commission, Pierre.

TENNESSEE

Charles D. Johnston, Cossett Li- John H. Pepper, Memphis. brary, Memphis.

TEXAS

DIRECTOR

Miss Elizabeth H. West, Carnegie Library, San Antonio.

CHAIRMAN WAR COUNCIL William L. Herff, San Antonio Loan & Trust Co., San An-

UTAH

Council of National Defense will conduct campaign, Salt Lake City.

(Not yet appointed.)

VERMONT

Mason S. Stone, Montpelier.

(Not yet appointed.)

VIRGINIA

H. R. McIlwaine, State Library, Gen. J. L. Stern, Richmond. Richmond.

WASHINGTON

Judson T. Jennings, Public Li-Rt. Rev. Frederick W. Keator, Tacoma. brary, Seattle.

WEST VIRGINIA

C. Burgess Taylor, Oakland, Md. Dr. Wilson M. Foulk, Dept. Archives and History, Charleston.

WISCONSIN

M. S. Dudgeon, Library Commis-Hon. John B. Winslow, Supreme sion, Madison. Court, Madison.

WYOMING

Miss Agnes Wright, State Libra- Avery Hagard, Cheyenne. rian, Chevenne.

THAT QUESTION ANSWERED

Many Persons Want to Know Why A. L. A. Needs Money for Books When Millions Were Given in First Drive—Reply That Gives the Reason

BY FRANK PARKER STOCKBRIDGE

National Director of Information, Second Library War Fund.

THE question most frequently asked, when the need of the American Library Association for \$3,500,000 with which to develop and maintain Library War Service is mentioned, is "What do you need the money for when the people gave you so many million books?"

It is a perfectly natural question. Everybody in the United States, speaking broadly, saw the books being delivered at the public libraries. Almost every house, in the larger cities at least, and in many of the smaller communities, was visited by Boy Scouts and others collecting books for the soldiers. Here was something visible, tangible, and the public remembers it.

Everybody connected with Library War Service in any way has been asked this question, undoubtedly. As the time of the campaign approaches, and during the campaign, the question will be asked over and over again, as it was asked of me recently in a letter from the secretary of an organization whose membership averages as high a grade of intelligence and education as any organization in the United States.

"It has seemed to us," said the secretary, "that an appeal for books would produce more than could possibly be used, and this merely through a healthy thinning out of the average man's bookshelves." This was the reply:

MOSTLY FICTION CONTRIBUTED

"So far from producing more books than could possibly be used, the appeal for books, which has been continuous and at times intense for nearly a year, has brought less than three million books. These books are mostly fiction; in fact, almost all of them that can be used are fiction. The books that the soldiers are asking for and that the Government is asking us to supply for them, so far as it is possible to do so, are technical books, scientific works, text-books of every kind, books on history, books in foreign languages-in short, the whole list of books that can be classified as educational. Books of this kind taken from the 'average man's book-shelves' are of little value because they are not up to date. You cannot hand to the soldier who wants the latest work on automobile mechanics a book dealing with the four-cylinder cars of five years ago.

"Of course there are some standardized sciences in which the book issued ten or fifteen or even fifty years ago is as valuable as the most recent one, but there are very few sciences, and none of the arts, in which the old book is of current value. Gray's Anatomy is still standard, although it was first published 75 years ago. There has been no change in the propositions of Euclid, and the standard works on trigonometry and higher algebra do not need to be of the 1918 edition. But when we have to provide a book on the psychology of color for the use of the camouflage corps, it has to be a new book. The chemistry of high explosives is a subject on which we cannot get books from the 'average man's book-shelves.' Neither do the 'average man's book-shelves' yield books to meet such demands as one which one of our librarians recently encountered, from a Greek soldier who wanted a book to help him teach an Italian soldier how to read English.

"From a Southwestern camp a few days ago came the report that the draft had brought in thousands of Mexicans who could not read English, and a demand for the immediate shipment of books in Spanish. We supplied the demand, but of course we had to buy the books, as we have to buy the books in Yiddish, Polish, Lithuanian, French, Italian, German, Scandinavian, Russian, Chinese, Arabic and the other languages making up the forty different tongues in our polyglot army, for all of which we endeavor to supply the reading need. The publishers are very generous in their discounts, some of these running as high as 50 per cent; otherwise we could not, with our limited funds, go as far as we have been able to go, for we have bought, since the first of the year, nearly 750,000 books in addition to those which have been given by the public. Many authors too have presented us with their royalties by way of discount on their books. These technical books are all more expensive than the general run of fiction. We buy many books that retail at \$4 and \$5 each.

"Our services are of no value whatever unless we can put into the hands of the man who needs it the exact book he needs when he wants it. When the notice of an Annapolis examination was posted at Pelham Bay recently, eighty of the boys decided to try for it. They swooped down on the librarian with a demand for books on higher mathematics, which she was able to fill by telephoning our New York dispatch office which forwarded some hundreds of trigonometries, algebras and geometries.

THESE BOOKS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY

"Those boys needed the books then and not after we had time to go out and beg for them from private libraries. Private libraries are helping generously, and so is the Library of Congress in lending special books freely. Through the Department of Education we are combing out the libraries of universities and schools everywhere. With help through this means, and the obtaining of an additional fund with which to continue the service, we hope to be able to come somewhere near to supplying the book demands of the enlarged army of 4,000,000 when it is an army in being.

"The most striking phenomenon about the United States Army and Navy is that it is a reading army as no army ever was before, and that its members are reading far less for recreation than the average citizen reads—our fiction circulation is less than 50 per cent of the total as compared with more than 70 per cent in public libraries.

"It takes money to maintain this service. We have in the Service hundreds of librarians. Some have given up large salaries to work during the war for their bare expenses, and others have been loaned by their libraries, which continue their salaries; but even with salaries cut down to the least possible minimum the expense of building and equipping libraries and library stations, of collecting, shipping and transporting books, of maintaining central offices and distributing and dispatch stations, amounts to a very considerable sum. A single camp library, such as the one at Camp Funston, for example, has something like 200 branches in and around the camp. There are branches in the Y. M. C. A., the Knights of Columbus and other relief agency buildings, and there are branches in the wards of all the hospitals. There are branches in barracks and mess halls. There are branches in officers' quarters—special libraries on such things as ballistics and sanitary engineering, hydrostatics, meteorology, applied geology, and the hundreds of other subjects on which the modern soldier must be more or less a specialist.

THEY WANT BOOKS THAT ARE HELPFUL

"I trust that by this time you have begun to see why we cannot rely on the 'average man's book-shelves' if we are to come anywhere near our ideal aim of putting the right book in the hands of the soldier or sailor who needs it at the time when he wants it. Our records contain literally thousands of examples of the intense desire of our fighting men—just average American soldiers and sailors who are, of course, just average Americans in uniform—to read books that will help them, help them succeed in the profession of arms, help them understand better what they are fighting for, help them to be better citizens when they get back."

The proof that it was a conclusive and convincing reply is found in its instantaneous acceptance, coupled with the heartiest promise of full co-operation on behalf of the original questioner and the organization which he represents. Perhaps it will furnish suggestions to library workers who are asked similar questions.

A WORD TO LIBRARY LEADERS

FROM

WICKES WAMBOLDT, National Campaign Director

Dr. M. L. Raney, Overseas Representative of War Service, and I have recently attended a series of regional conferences held at Birmingham, Oklahoma City, Denver, Minneapolis, Chicago, Boston and New York.

At every meeting a fine spirit of cordiality and co-operation was expressed. Representatives from the other organizations participating in the United War Work Campaign were present at these conferences. The attitude on the part of all concerned was that of wanting to help in whatever way would be most effective. The same is true of the conferences at San Francisco and Seattle attended by Dr. Frank P. Hill and Carl H. Milam.

At this moment we want to emphasize to each Library leader the importance of keeping in close touch with the Library constituents in order that the full force of our organization may be brought into this great united drive for war funds.

Furthermore, we should not neglect this splendid opportunity to permanently develop and strengthen the machinery of the Library Association so that at the close of this campaign our organization shall be in the best of shape for work during the war and to continue its work when peace comes.

The Library leaders therefore should not fail to make full use of the privilege of having the American Library Association adequately represented on every committee appointed in behalf of the United War Work Campaign.

We at National Headquarters are anxious for practical suggestions from the field. We desire to know what the men and women on the firing line in this campaign think and what they want. Your ideas will be very welcome. Please address them to your National Headquarters, 124 East 28th St., New York.

To Every Librarian:—Without delay will you please forward to this office a complete list of your library trustees or directors? The success of United War Work Campaign depends upon your prompt and hearty coöperation with Campaign Headquarters. We are counting on you.

The A. L. A. Follows The Flag Overseas

[We give herewith, on this page and the next three, interesting facts about the war service of the American Library Association. Dr. M. Llewellyn Raney, Librarian of Johns Hopkins University and Director of Overseas Service of the A. L. A., tells how the work abroad was started; Burton E. Stevenson, the noted novelist, who is in charge of the Overseas libraries, tells how the work is progressing, and a reprint from the "Stars and Stripes," the official newspaper of the A. E. F., tells how the men over there like having libraries in the camps. Each article brings a message of import to members of the A. L. A. on this side of the water. Late cablegrams from Mr. Stevenson report that there are now 350 library branches in operation with 850,000 books in France. Every month adds to the number.]

A the annual conference of the American Library Association, held at Saratoga Springs, New York, the first week in July, a most interesting report of the army and navy library extension work was given by M. Llewellyn Raney, Librarian of Johns Hopkins University, and Director of Overseas Service for the Association.

Mr. Raney's report was no collection of dry statistics, no formal record of books collected and distributed. It was a picture, vividly painted, of the world at war, of a great effective, determined, living army in the field, more than a million men transplanted three thousand miles away from home, and vitally in need of exactly the kind of a link with home that is afforded by books and reading. Mr. Raney took his audience with him through camps, into trenches, Y. M. C. A. huts, Red Cross and military hospitals, down shell-torn roads and into the darkness and danger of dugouts and other shelters, everywhere, in fact, where our men have penetrated, and that includes a very big area in central and northern France.

Over most of this large area Mr. Raney travelled, everywhere asking the question, "Do you want books?" and getting the kind of answers that will certainly convince the country that if the claim, "Books will win the war," is rather too ambitious, the assertion that books will go a long way toward making our army the greatest fighting body in existence is amply justified.

America is a reading nation. Our people must have books, they must read. Mr. Raney told of a perilous journey into the heart of the devastated regions over which the retreating Hun has recently been harried by our young soldiers. Here at the end of a soft Spring afternoon, just as the guns were beginning their nightly argument, Mr. Raney found himself looking into a dugout doorway where the night before a gas shell had fallen with deadly effect. The only men left in the dugout at that hour were two young officers reading, by the light of one flickering candle, the only printed pages within their reach, an ancient copy of a National Geographic Magazine, and a more recent issue of the Literary Digest. Did they want books? They most enthusiastically did, and if to-day they are on duty in that particular sector they have only to take a ten-minute walk to reach a good stock of new books and current magazines.

On a visit to a Y. M. C. A. hut in the next village Mr. Raney found a crowd of soldiers, gas masks alert, and ready for the order to go forward. There was a phonograph, and the boys put on one record after another, joining in the chorus, singing and whistling to pass the time away. Some sat outside the hut under the battered remnants of a stone wall which shielded them from the eyes of enemy snipers, reading, writing, enjoying the one hour in the twenty-four which, in that advanced post, could be given to recreation.

All Hungry for Books

"Books?" exclaimed the devoted secretary of this firing line canteen. "If my little store were doubled and tripled many-fold I would not have enough to satisfy these hungry souls."

As Mr. Raney watched them, a little later, winding down the concealed readway and dropping beneath the hedge into communicating trenches for the nightly game of death, he felt the need of renewed efforts to get libraries distributed quickly all over the war area.

Most of us get our ideas of war from published photographs and

from the moving pictures. Probably the "movie" is the sole interpreter to the vast majority. Therefore war, to most people, is a matter of fighting, marching, or getting patched up in hospitals. These form the romantic and interesting phases of war. By far the greater business of war is lived under monotonous and laborious conditions remote from the firing lines. Soldiers asked to define the real hardships of war almost invariably reply: "Monotony and loneliness."

Mr. Raney declared that if the doughboy in action needs books, even more do the men detailed to other work than actual fighting in the trenches. There are a great many of these men. "If we add the supply trains, headquarters police, veterinarians, etc., as well as the upwards of twelve hundred officers," said Mr. Raney, "we shall not have accounted for two-thirds of the 27,000 men that go to make up a combat division. Thus there are about 4,500 artillerymen, 2,500 machine gunners, 1,500 engineers, 1,500 engaged in medical and sanitary work and 500 belonging to the signal corps—groups having each a life peculiar to itself, and calling to us in its own tongue."

Take for example the gun crews. They are fighting men, but their position is isolated. Men of technical training and intellectually active, they are confined to a square which they cannot leave and into which no one else can come. They are on duty twenty-four hours, sometimes several days at a stretch, and at least a part of that time is spent in waiting telephonic orders to fire. Perhaps the orders come quickly and the gunners are kept busy. Perhaps a day will pass, two or three days, before the men hear the command. Time hangs heavily on their hands, and they will certainly rejoice when they hear that arrangements have been made that books and magazines may be sent them with the mail on munitions trains moving at night to the outlying gun positions. Books to the men behind the big guns will be boons of great price.

Back of the fighting zone there lives an army of which the average reader knows little or nothing. They are the soldiers in reserve. Leaving out the special training camps, where the men remain for a few weeks or months, take the long stretch of French towns and villages where our men are billeted, some waiting to go forward, some resting after the ordeal of battle. Dreary enough some of these places, especially in Winter. Whether the men are lucky enough to be billeted in a cottage, where some of the comforts of home are within reach, or, as is oftener the case, they are quartered in barns with the family livestock, recreation is one of their most pressing needs.

Library Man Always Welcome

"Like rain to parched ground is a cheering entertainer to them," said Mr. Raney, "and how ravenously they read. . . . One evening I came unannounced upon a crowd packing a hut to the doors in anticipation of a performance put on by their own talent. They had had their own volunteer band and there were to be lots of stunts. Just as the instruments were tuning up it reached the ears of the officer in charge that a library man from America was in the building. So I was ushered to the platform and the story of our proposed service became the first number on the programme. The idea was vigorously applauded. In fact, before I could settle down to the evening's schedule, I had to go out and reassure an eager group of

distant listeners that they had heard correctly and the news was reliable."

It must have seemed too good to be true to those eager young soldiers, chafing under enforced waiting to be called into the action they crave. In this same great finishing region books other than recreational are also demanded. Army schools for the training of line and staff officers exist in numbers. Large libraries have to be provided for these student officers. One school visited by Mr. Raney had a curriculum including Anti-aircraft, Camouflage, Carrier-pigeons, Dentistry, Engineering (with several divisions), Gas, Infantry specialties, such as Bayonet, Machine Gun, Marksmanship, Sniping, etc., Signal Corps, Tanks, Trench Mortars, and others besides.

Textbooks in all branches the Government provides, but the American Library Association can be very useful in its supply of collateral technical reading, as well as reading in leisure hours or minutes, for students in these war schools and colleges measure their spare time in minutes. "Thus the cablegram calling for five hundred copies of 'Jeanne d'Arc,' demands thirty of 'Metal Workers' Pattern Book,'" according to Mr. Raney's report. The metal workers' book is wanted by the student officers, and they will get their share of lighter reading too.

Through forty villages and towns in this advance area the library service will extend. But that is not all. Farther back still lies the Intermediate Area where many divisions are in disintegration, men awaiting assignment to duty, sick and wounded men many of them. The area is a mixture of barracks and hospitals. These soldiers are often low in spirit and in pocket, and among them, said Mr. Raney, there was no difficulty in establishing free library service. They are hungry for books.

In the Intermediate Area lie many large training camps, especially for artillery and aviation. Miles away from any town Mr. Raney found an American city, newly created, of 10,000 inhabitants, some of whom were there already, others on the way overseas. It was an aviation camp, one of scores which have sprung up "over there," good substantial towns with paver streets, water, electric light, sewage disposal, telephones, telegraphs, etc., badly needing libraries. A great deal of studying goes on in these camps and there is an urgent demand from officers for works on mechanics and aeronautics. To every eighteen flyers there are 150 mechanics, and the pilots themselves have a term of ground training and theoretical work.

The "Service of Supply"

Travel farther still with Mr. Raney on his long journey, and get into the region known to the army as the S. O. S., the Service of Supply. There is little glory or excitement in the S. O. S., but our men are fighting the Hun there as surely as are the heroes in the trenches. They feed and clothe the fighters, build for them, bake for them, supply all their needs, do the things that the Germans were confident an army so far from its base could never do.

"For example," reported Mr. Raney, "one of these depots is an ice factory and the third largest producer in the world, furnishing daily ice for the cold storage of eleven million pounds of meat. It is six and a half miles long and at parts two miles broad.

"Salvage plants and bakeries, camouflage factories and ammunition caches all find place here. This brings concentrations of specialists in training centers, labor and technical troops, ordnance and warehouse men, forestry and engineering troops, guards and headquarters contingents," American young men living in barracks among strangers, wanting and needing just the help the libraries are giving them in a constantly increasing stream.

Even this is not all. The Base Areas, which include the ports at which our transports dock and our supplies are unloaded, have an ever growing American population. For what these men, white and brown, have done and are doing in this war there are no words of praise too strong. The Library Conference at Saratoga heard with wonder an account of the miracles of construction wrought by American engineers and work troops in these areas.

"A year ago at a certain French port," said Mr. Raney, "there were a few small wharves, approachable by light draft vessels which were emptied and loaded by hand labor. To-day we have driven 80,000 piles by machinery and constructed four great docks capable of accommodating sixteen heavy cargo vessels at the same time, and deepened the channel for their entry. . . . At another port you can now walk along three miles of landing stages and see 875,000 square feet of wharf space where last October there was a swamp. Nearby is a remarkable system of warehouses which will cover nearly 2,000 acres; not to mention a mighty railroad system. A hospital of 25,000 beds, the largest in the world, is here being built, while in this area is accommodation for 25 per cent. of the command. This means a concentration of 12,000 laborers in this region. Then there are the naval stations and rest camps for troops arriving."

First Chance to Learn to Read

Twelve thousand stevedores concentrated in this region were recruited mostly in the rice swamps and cotton fields of the far south, and the first chance they ever had to learn to read and write eame to them in their barracks on foreign soil. The Library Service will be of vital service to these men, and through them to the United States. By contrast thousands of engineers, university and technical school graduates, are working with pick and shovel in this Base Area. They crave books of all kinds, books to advance them in their work after the war, books to make them forget the hard labor which is their contribution to the war for liberation. Small wonder that the first consignment of books sent over was placed at the disposal of these men.

Perhaps you think that it was an easy task that was assigned to Mr. Raney, that of establishing a library service in the army and navy abroad. If you do you simply do not know war conditions, and the conduct of war. Military necessity imposes a certain amount of formality and red tape, and it is human nature to add another certain amount for good measure. When Mr. Raney, as a guest of the United States Navy, landed in Europe, he unfolded his plans first to the Commander of the United States Naval Forces Operating in European Waters. His response was not too encouraging. The Admiral had had "an experience," and he was shy of welfare organizations. Besides the larger ships possessed libraries, while at the chief naval base private funds had built a fine club house with an abundant library.

The Admiral was kind enough however to give Mr. Raney a pass to all naval stations under his command, and only those who know the navy in war times can realize what a requisite that pass was. But it was not until Mr. Raney reached France that the demand for books really manifested itself. "At Naval Headquarters in Paris," said Mr. Raney, "I stumbled upon a group of officers who at once set up a vigorous plea in behalf of aviation stations. These boys, with a good percentage of college graduates among them, were choice fellows, and yet set usually in out-of-the-way places, with recreational provisions scanty or none. Their Admiral out at the coast endorsed what they had to say, but wanted it distinctly understood that his boys on the boats were just as deserving of our remembrance."

To prove it the Admiral took Mr. Raney on an exciting two days' cruise down the French coast in the flagship of a convoying fleet. Afloat and ashore the men of the Navy lent their warmest endorsement to the library plan. Men in some of the stations were taking Annapolis examinations the next month. They lacked textbooks, and the minute they heard of Mr. Raney's presence in France they fairly yelled for help. They got it too—instantly—the cables being used for the first consignment of textbooks. The next time Mr. Raney saw Admiral Sims he too had been converted. He had heard from France, and now he wanted books sent to every arm of his service, "Naval bases, aviation stations, mine sweeping bases, and even his pet battleships that in February would never, never need us," said Mr. Raney, with quite pardonable pride.

One Newcomer Not Killed Off

The Navy, after all, was easy, once Mr. Raney had a chance to explain his plans, but the Army proved a more difficult proposition. Fixed as the proverbial laws of the Medes and the Persians appeared at first the decree allocating the whole field of civilian activities to the Red Cross and the Y. M. C. A.—the one to do every possible thing necessary for the sick, and the other to have entire jurisdiction over the leisure hours of the well. Accordingly both these organizations had been militarized.

"You could feel in the atmosphere," Mr. Raney told the Library Conference, "a working agreement to kill off all newcomers, and the backyards of all three parties were white with the bleaching bones of would-be associates."

The Army was in supreme command, while the Red Cross were in possession, was working splendidly and seemed to cover all activities. They had libraries, and they had besides, in hut and hospital all over France, the only establishments in position to render civilian service.

Mr. Raney went straight to headquarters, to General Pershing, explaining the whole plan of the American Library Association, asking for endorsement for the plan and a military status for those administering it. To his letter he appended endorsements from E. C. Carter, Chief of the American Expeditionary Force of the Y. M. C. A., and from Major J. H. Perkins, Commissioner for Europe of the Red Cross. In two days' time the endorsement came, the American Library Association was given the sole privilege of supplying books to the American Army and Navy, and was given a tonnage of fifty ship tons a month, this carrying space having been requested for the association by the Chief of Staff in Washington. Shipments are addressed to the Chief Quartermaster of the American Expeditionary Force for distribution. That official who was warmly in favor of the plan offered to build a warehouse for the books at an important distributing point. The warehouse has been completed and books in quantity are being sent there every month.

How close the co-operation with the army has grown is indicated by the card which stands above every case of books. Following the announcement of a library service without charge, and a few simple rules, is this message from the Commander-in-Chief:

"These books come to us overseas from home.

"To read them is a privilege:

"To restore them promptly unabused a duty.

"(Signed) JOHN J. PERSHING."

"The Red Cross," Mr. Raney reported, "found us useful in strengthening its Medical Library established in Paris for American doctors in military service . . . found us so useful in fact, that they finally agreed to have us run this central library for them and have its fine suite of rooms in the Reinhart Galleries for our headquarters if we liked."

Even for Prisoners in Germany

As for the Y. M. C. A., it has virtually handed over its whole library business to the A. L. A. The Y. M. C. A. secretaries and chaplains agreed to look out for the books placed on transports for the use of men en route both ways, to rebox the books and to deliver them in port. Co-operation with the Knights of Columbus and the Salvation Army has come to be as close. Through all these organizations it has become possible for the library service to extend all over our area in Europe, and even to prisoners of war in Germany and Austria. The Red Cross and the Y. M. C. A. furnish these poor prisoners food, clothing, medicine, and recreation, the A. L. A. furnishes books. As an initial stock for prison libraries Mr. Raney visited Berne and Geneva and left an order for 6,000 volumes. What these books will mean to our captured men and to other prisoners in their camps cannot be overestimated. It may mean life and sanity to some. It will mean hope and joy to all.

Six Dispatch Offices in America at points of embarkation, 400,000 books sent to the docks before the first of July, 203 points in

France covered by the first shipments, a steady stream of books for the camps, is the fine record announced by Mr. Raney's report. A promise of magazines for the trenches as soon as the "Burleson" sacks resume overseas dispatch followed.

"Thus the cycle is complete from training camps in the United States to troop trains (as we contemplate) and transports from port to the front and back to the rest station, hospital, or captivity; with the naval units whether ashore or at sea, from the British Isles to the Mediterranean, we follow the flag."

Even after the war the service will go on, because repatriation will take a year or two, and the army is to be put to school during that period. Even after that—for the American library system has taken root in France. The public library translated into French becomes Maison de Tous, the People's House, and Mr. Raney tells us that a great organization headed by the President of the Republic, planning for the social reconstruction of France after the war, has decided to adopt our library system and has asked the aid of the American Library Association, which nobody can possibly doubt will be given to the fullest extent as one of the greatest privileges that has ever fallen to the lot of the organization.

Library War Service

[We give herewith an extract from a letter from Burton E. Stevenson, the famous novelist, author of the "Mystery of the Boule Cabinet," "Marathon Mystery," editor of "Home Book of Verse," etc., who is in charge of the Overseas Libraries of the War Service of the American Library Association:

"We have distributed through the Y. M. C. A., from the Paris warehouse, more than \$4,000 volumes, serving about 203 points; we have persuaded the army to erect for us a warehouse of our own, 20 feet by 100 feet in size, at one of the great receiving depots, where we will handle the books that come through on our own cargo shipments. This warehouse is almost complete and these books are beginning to arrive. We have arranged with the Red Cross to permit us to supervise the distribution of the books which come over on their tonnage, and we have also distributed some 5,000 of Nelson fiction to the front-line trenches, these books being bought in Paris for the purpose. Some 7,000 volumes of historical and miscellaneous reference books which Dr. Raney purchased in London, on his way back to America, are also beginning to arrive and will be distributed very soon.

"The Y. M. C. A. has turned over to me the management of their Library Department and has placed their Educational Secretaries at my disposal for the forwarding of this work. We are working in very close touch with the Y Educational Department, and are just having placed at our disposal magnificent headquarters occupying the entire ground floor of a building which was formerly the palace of the papal delegue to the French Republic. I am planning to set up there a real American public library which will act as a reservoir and central distributing point for the whole of France.

"What I am trying is to institute in the principal camps a system somewhat similar to that which we started in the camps in America, by which the boys may look toward our Paris Headquarters for advice and assistance. Should military developments make it necessary for us to remove from Paris, I will start up a similar collection somewhere else, probably at Tours, and I hope by early Fall to have this system in complete operation.

"It seems to me that one of the greatest services we can perform in France is to demonstrate the way in which American public libraries work. As you know, there are no free lending libraries, as we understand the term, in France at present. There is, however, a move on foot to establish them here, organized by a committee of which the President of the Republic is the chairman, and I wish to place the experience and advice of the A. L. A. at the disposal of this committee for the forwarding of this movement.

"The work is of the more inspiring and interesting kind and the demand for books on the part of our men is almost unbelievably great. Their gratitude for even the smallest collection is very touching and makes me feel that we cannot work hard enough to give them the very best possible service."

(From The Stars and Stripes, Official Newspaper of the American Expeditionary Forces, June 14, 1918.)

Three Million Books for Army's Readers

Hundred Thousand Already Here or on Way Overseas; Murder Yarns to Milton; American Library Association Plan Now in Successful Operation.

Of the 3,000,000 books which the folks back home contributed to the American Library Association for the leisure hours of the A. E. F., more than 100,000 are either here or on their way across.*

They range all the way from the most hair-raising murder mystery to the latest and best text-book on aviation. And if any one in charge of a distributing point where you want to draw one of them tries to ensure its safe return by making you put up a cash deposit as a hostage, tell him he's out of luck. The A. L. A. is determined that its books shall circulate on the honor system.

"It has been the custom in many places to require the man taking out a book to make a deposit of two or three francs to guarantee its safe return," the Association explains in its bulletin of instructions to all librarians. "The Amerian Library Association is firmly opposed to this practice. It feels that no such barrier should be erected between the men and the books. If such a barrier is necessary it is because the administration is at fault. The honor system will unquestionably succeed with the right sort of helpful supervision and where proper care is taken to make the men understand just what is expected of them."

Loaned on Honor System

By way of making the men understand, a poster expounds the system at every bookshelf, with this sentence as a climax:

"These books are loaned on the honor system. If you fail, it fails. America is far away, tonnage scarce and books precious. Play square with the other fellow; he has played square with you."

About one-half of the A. E. F. area already has its first sprinkling of light and heavy reading matter. This distribution will proceed rapidly, and in the meantime a new project is under way. Unless there is some unforeseen slip-up, the middle of July should see an elaborate reference library opened in Paris for the use of all of us.

The American Library Association has had a million to spend and most of this has been devoted to the purchase of the best technical books that could be asked for by the ambitious soldier who is eager to know more about his business.

The Paris library will have 10,000 volumes. Any officer or man who desires a certain book and does not find it on the shelves at the hut near which he is stationed, may send in the title through the secretary in charge there and the book will be sent him free of charge from Paris.

To Place Books Everywhere

There are to be books everywhere. You could scarcely exaggerate the demand. Before the supply was as large as it is to-day, a single copy of O. Henry's "The Four Million," which one boy had brought over in his barrack bag, was split up into as many volumes as there were tales between the covers, and these were passed along the line and read and re-read till the print was fairly rubbed off the pages.

The demand is for books of every kind. Probably the greatest call is for detective stories and tales of the Rockies. Next is the yearning for poetry, with Robert W. Service and Rudyard Kipling as the doughboy's favorites.

The dashing adventures of "The Three Musketeers" and other Dumas heroes are much relished, for you can hardly journey five kilometers in France without running into some reminder of them. Histories of France, and particularly the guide books which tell you something of this chateau or that cathedral, are clamored for till the American Library Association is at its wit's end to supply them.

Some Want Big Stuff

Now and again the guardians of the books are moved to suspect that a boy in a rest camp has decided the time has come for him to read a book he had been meaning to read all his life. As when one of them asked, with a perfectly straight face, for Boswell's "Life of Johnson."

Of course, the campaign which yielded 3,000,000 volumes emptied many a dusty and neglected shelf back home, and, of course, many an inappropriate book has found its way over. You can imagine the emotions of one very hard guy who settled down for a quiet evening in a "Y" hut, reached for something to read, and found himself staring at the first and gushiest of all the Elsie Books.

LIBRARY WAR SERVICE

of the

American Library Association

Builds, Equips and Operates Libraries for Soldiers and Sailors, on this Side and Overseas.

Forty-four libraries of 30,000 volumes at large camps, 300 smaller camps and posts, 148 Naval and Marine Stations, 350 libraries and branches overseas.

¶ Supplies Books and Magazines for the Red Cross, Y. M. C. A., K. of C., Y. W. C. A., Jewish Welfare Board, War Camp Community Service and Salvation Army.

1,547 branch libraries and stations have been established in the huts, canteens, club rooms and hostess houses.

Places Libraries on War Ships, Transports and Government Cargo Ships.

Two hundred and fifty vessels have libraries; there is a deck library on every transport.

Makes the Public's Gifts of Books Available for Our Fighting men.

3,011,510 volumes have been collected and placed in circulation.

Buys Educational and Technical Books to Meet the Demand of the Men for "Books that Help."

560,271 volumes have been purchased thus far, of which 198,267 has been sent overseas.

□ Distributes the Magazines Contributed by the Public through the Post-Office Department.

More than 5,000,000 copies of periodicals have been placed in the hands of our forces.

Maintains Library Service in Every Ward of Every Military Hospital.

Trained librarians serve our wounded as well as their more fortunate brothers in arms.

 \P Needs \$3,500,000 to Buy More Books and Expand the Service.

We have sent more than a million books overseas; we must sent millions more.

In Giving to the UNITED WAR WORK CAMPAIGN You are Giving to Library War Service.

^{*}The total number of books in France on September 10 was 1,031,000, with more on the way.